

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Charles County Chamber of Commerce Inventory Number: ~~11-0018~~ CH-850

Address: 6360 Crain Highway, Charles County - in the vicinity of La Plata

Owner: Unknown

Tax Parcel Number: 114 Tax Map Number: 108

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no    yes Name:                      Date:                     

Eligibility recommended    Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria    A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G X None

Is property located within a historic district?: X no    yes Name of District:                     

Is district listed?: X no    yes


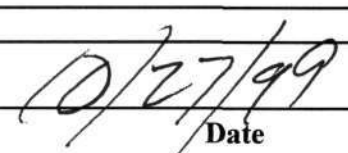
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

**Description of Property and Eligibility Determination** *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

6360 Crain Highway is a one-and-one-half-story, brick municipal building. The building is three-bays wide with a one-story, one-bay wide wing to the north. The house is covered by a side gable, asphalt shingle roof. The roof is pierced by three, front gable roof dormers. The central door, surrounded by side lights, is flanked on each side by two, 6/6 double-hung, wood sash windows with a wood panel below. A brick chimney rises along the north elevation between the wing and the main house.

Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments contributed to La Plata's overall community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. The Robert Crain Highway was completed in 1927 and it provided the most direct way to Baltimore and points north of Charles County. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s. With the introduction of the Harry W. Nice Bridge in 1940, Crain Highway, now known as U.S. 301, was transformed from a local road into a bypass for traffic traveling between Florida and New York.

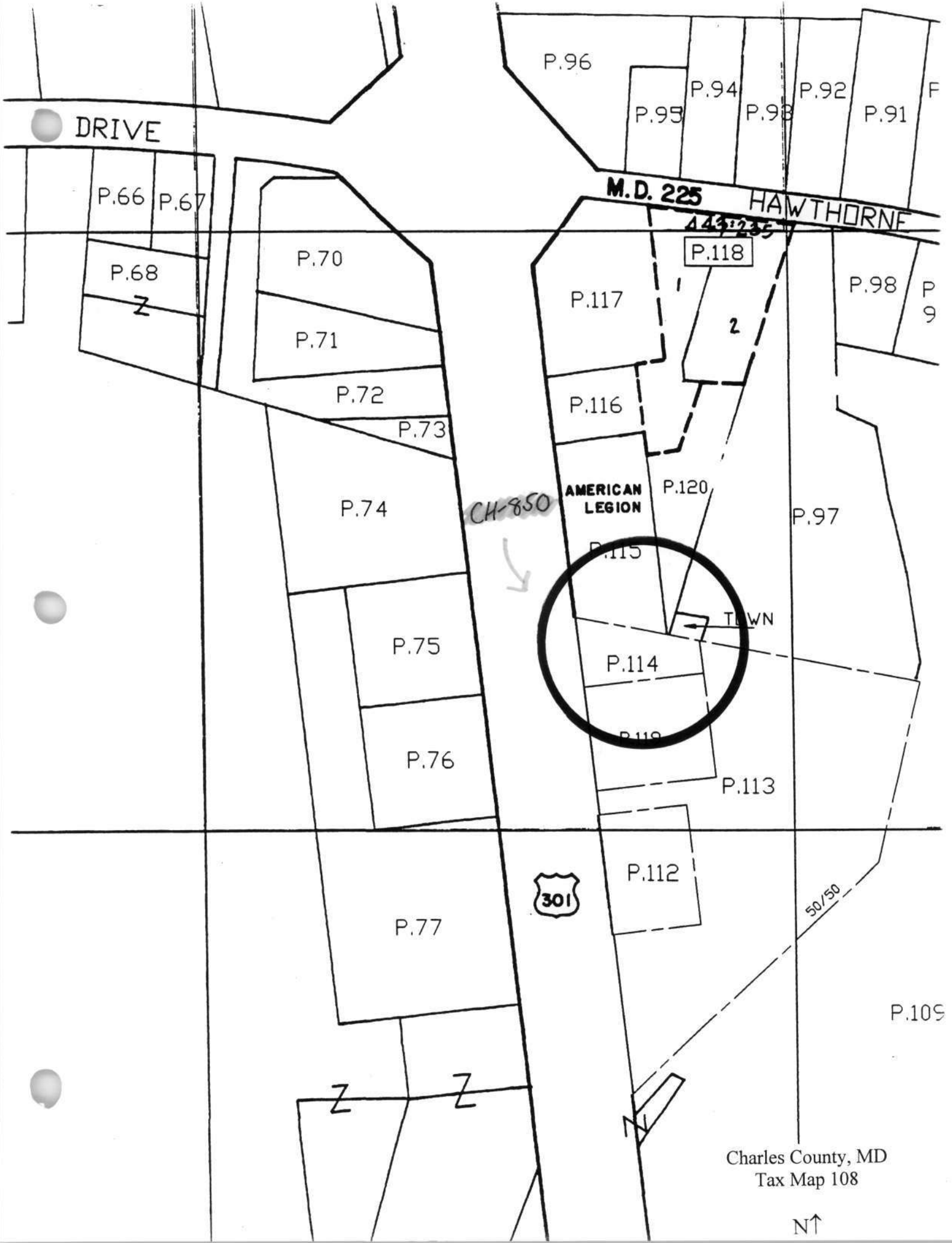
Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

| <b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Eligibility recommended</b><br>Criteria: <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> B <u>X</u> C <u>  </u> D  | <b>Eligibility not recommended</b><br>Consideration: <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> B <u>  </u> C <u>  </u> D <u>  </u> E <u>X</u> F <u>  </u> G <u>  </u> None |
|   |  |
| <div style="text-align: center;"><br/>_____<br/><b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b></div> | <div style="text-align: center;"><br/>_____<br/><b>Date</b></div> |
| <div style="text-align: center;">_____<br/><b>Reviewer, NR Program</b></div>  | <div style="text-align: center;">_____<br/><b>Date</b></div>   |

Although Charles County was still primarily rural, by the 1930's, La Plata began to grow significantly because of the development of Crain Highway. Non-agricultural business began to increase around La Plata and the county seat's position within Charles County became economically more diverse. Development, including housing, increased as a result of Crain Highway and the influx of new businesses and investment into the area.

World War II and the increasing dependence upon motor vehicles played a very important role in La Plata's community development. Charles County continued its relative isolation from large-scale residential and commercial development until after Crain Highway was dualized and designated U.S. 301 in the 1960s.

Built circa 1940, this Colonial Revival-style municipal building is not eligible for the National Register. While it is typical of the development along U.S. 301 within La Plata, this resource lacks significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.



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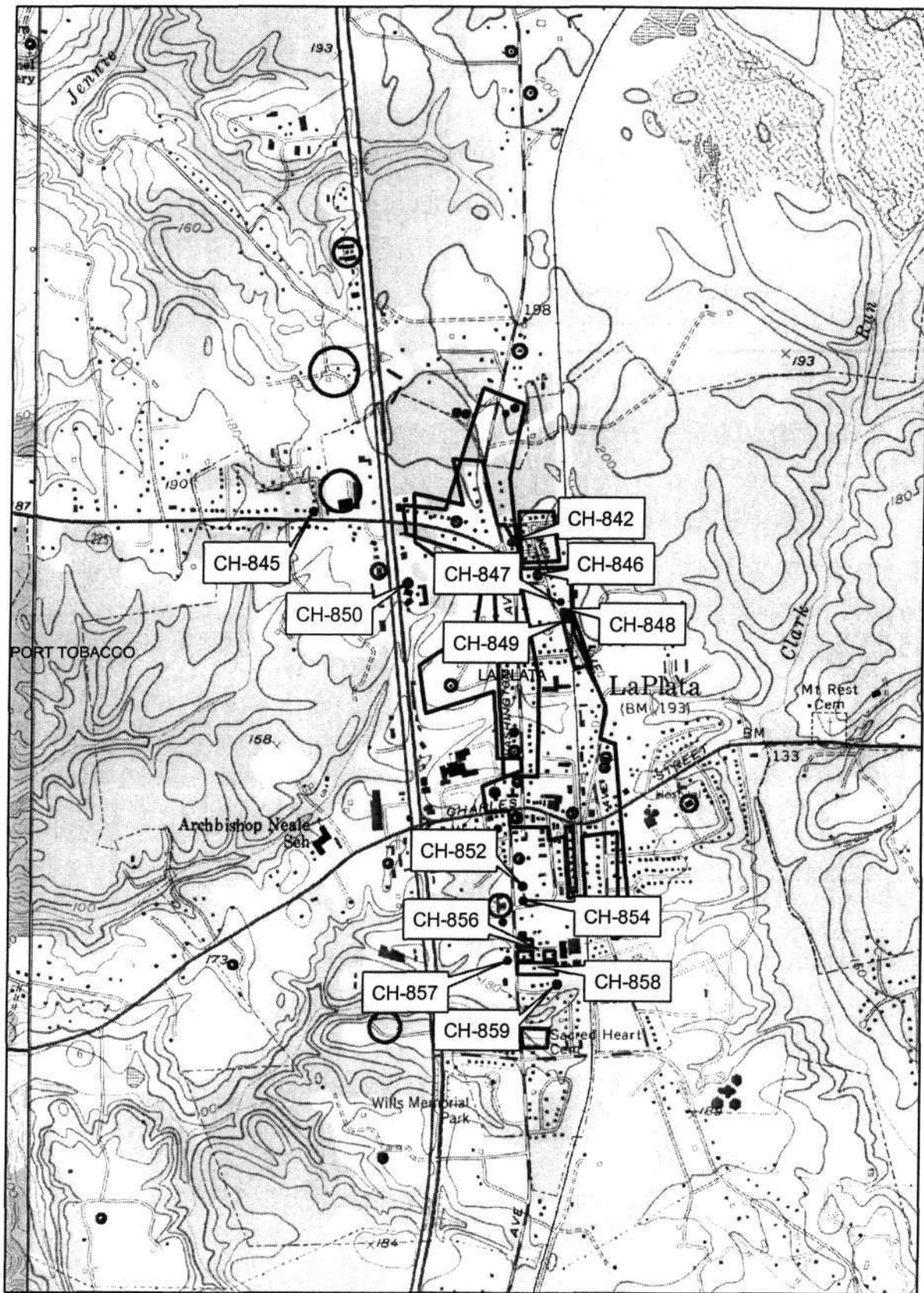
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Charles County, MD  
Tax Map 108

N↑

CH-850  
La Plata  
Quad





~~CH-850~~ CH-850

6360 Crain Highway - Charles County Chamber of  
Charles County, MD Commerce

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking Northeast

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